LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A ballast system comprising:

a wastewater treatment system for receiving and treating wastewater;

a wastewater ballast tank for storing the treated wastewater as ballast;

a ballast discharge system for discharging the treated wastewater from said wastewater ballast tank;

a monitoring unit for testing the treated wastewater;

a disinfection unit for disinfecting the treated wastewater that is stored in said wastewater ballast tank;

a pump for circulating the stored, treated wastewater through said disinfection unit; and

a control system, wherein the control system controls operation of said wastewater treatment system, said ballast discharge system, said monitoring unit, said disinfection unit, and said pump.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A contingency ballast method comprising: [[:]]

treating wastewater;

storing treated wastewater;

testing the treated wastewater;

taking in non-local or non-regional seawater ballast at sea;

discharging said non-local or non-regional seawater ballast upon entering local or regional waters;

taking in local or regional seawater ballast upon entering local or regional waters;

discharging the treated wastewater during ballast operations when the treated water meets testing thresholds;

discharging said local or regional seawater ballast during in-port ballast operations when the treated water meets testing thresholds.

17. (Previously Presented) The ballast system of claim 14, wherein said wastewater treatment system comprises:

a sludge and particulate removal system; and

a decontamination unit.

18. (Previously Presented) The ballast system of claim 14, further comprising:

at least one seawater ballast tank for receiving, holding, and discharging seawater ballast; and

at least one sample port for testing the treated wastewater prior to discharge.

19. (Previously Presented) The ballast system of claim 14, wherein said disinfection unit comprises an ultraviolet treatment unit.

20. (Previously Presented) The contingency ballast system of claim 16, wherein the step of treating said wastewater comprises:

filtering the wastewater to remove sludge and particulate matter; and

decontaminating said wastewater to destroy fecal coliforms, bacteria, and pathogens.

21. (Previously Presented) The contingency ballast system of claim 20, wherein said step of decontaminating said wastewater comprises:

dosing said wastewater with electromagnetic radiation.

22. (Previously Presented) The contingency ballast system of claim 16, further comprising:

retreating said wastewater when the tested wastewater does not meet predetermined standards.

23. (Previously Presented) The contingency ballast system of claim 16, further comprising:

sampling said treated wastewater; and

testing samples of said treated wastewater.

24. (Previously Presented) The contingency ballast system of claim 16, further comprising:

retreating said stored treated wastewater.

25. (Previously Presented) The contingency ballast system of claim 16, wherein the step of storing said treated wastewater comprises:

circulating the stored wastewater through a disinfection unit to destroy fecal coliforms, bacteria, and other pathogens.

26-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) ~~The wastewater ballast method of claim 34, further comprising:~~

A wastewater ballast method comprising the steps in the order of:

collecting wastewater generated during operation of a vessel;

filtering said wastewater;

treating said filtered wastewater to meet predetermined regulatory standards;

storing said treated wastewater in a wastewater ballast tank;

transferring said treated wastewater to a discharge unit;

discharging said treated wastewater from said vessel;

recirculating said treated wastewater through a first disinfection unit; and

disinfecting said treated wastewater from said wastewater ballast tank using a second disinfection unit.

38. (Previously Presented) The wastewater ballast method of claim 37, wherein said second disinfection unit comprises one of an ultraviolet disinfection unit and a non-chemical disinfectant.

39. (Previously Presented) The wastewater ballast method of claim 37, wherein said second disinfection unit includes a wastewater ballast discharge unit.

40-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) ~~The wastewater ballast method of claim 46, further comprising:~~

A wastewater ballast system, comprising:

a filtering unit for filtering untreated wastewater from a vessel;

a decontaminating unit for treating said filtered wastewater to meet predetermined regulatory standards;

a monitoring unit for monitoring said treated wastewater to ensure that said treated wastewater meets predetermined thresholds;

a wastewater ballast tank for storing said treated wastewater;

a first disinfection unit for disinfecting said treated wastewater in said wastewater ballast tank;

a wastewater ballast discharge unit for discharging said treated wastewater from said wastewater ballast tank;

a sample port for sampling said treated wastewater after at least one of said wastewater treatment unit, said monitoring unit, said wastewater ballast tank, said first disinfection unit, and said wastewater ballast discharge unit, for compliane with predetermined regulatory requirements; and

a second disinfection unit for disinfecting said treated wastewater from said wastewater ballast tank,[[.]]

wherein said first disinfection unit comprises one of an ultraviolet disinfection unit and a non-chemical disinfectant.

48. (Currently Amended) The wastewater ballast method of claim 47[[6]], wherein said second disinfection unit comprises one of an ultraviolet disinfection unit and a non-chemical disinfectant.

49. (Previously Presented) The wastewater ballast method of claim 48, wherein said second disinfection unit includes a wastewater ballast discharge unit.

50. (Previously Presented) A wastewater ballast system, comprising:

a filtering unit for filtering untreated wastewater from a vessel;

a decontaminating unit for treating said filtered wastewater to meet predetermined regulatory standards;

a monitoring unit for monitoring said treated wastewater to ensure that said treated wastewater meets predetermined thresholds;

a wastewater ballast tank for storing said treated wastewater;

a first disinfection unit for disinfecting said treated wastewater in said wastewater ballast tank;

a wastewater ballast discharge unit for discharging said treated wastewater from said wastewater ballast tank; and

a sample port for sampling said treated wastewater after at least one of said wastewater treatment unit, said monitoring unit, said wastewater ballast tank, said first disinfection unit, and said wastewater ballast discharge unit, for compliance with predetermined regulatory requirements; and

a control system for controlling the operation of at least one of said wastewater treatment unit, said monitoring unit, said first disinfection unit, said wastewater ballast tank, and said wastewater ballast discharge unit.